

Counselor Academy

The Division of Vocational and Adult Education is working with two other state agencies and Central Missouri State University to develop a Counselor Academy. The Academy will meet three times during the year, and is designed to assist to school counselors in the development and dissemination of information concerning career awareness, exploration, choice, and having students develop a four-year high school plan of study. The importance of career awareness and career guidance for high school students has been well documented. By giving all counselors training in aligning their career awareness and career guidance activities, students will be less likely to reach their senior year of high school and be unprepared for the future. The Counselor Academies will correlate academics with career choices so that students and families can understand and be prepared for work/education needed after high school. Additionally, the academies will enable counselors to comply with No Child Left Behind by providing counseling, mentoring, and pupil services for all students so they can plan for their future by making informed career decisions.

New Teacher Mentoring Program

In Missouri school districts are required to provide a new teacher with a mentor. The in-district mentor is usually most helpful in training in local policies and procedures. And unless the in-district mentor teaches vocational education subjects, the mentor will not necessarily be well versed in the unique issues that face new vocational education teachers in areas such as equipment, curriculum and instruction, and career and technical student organizations. A mentoring program is being developed and implemented for all vocational education teachers who are first-year, second-year, or returning to the classroom.

During the summer vocational conference, mentors were trained and will be paired with protégés in their subject matter area. Their work will begin in September 2003 by attending a one-day session and will also attend an additional one-day meeting. Both the mentors and protégés will keep and submit logs on a quarterly basis and develop two structured experiences and two independent experiences through the year. There will be a recognition of the mentors and protégés for their work together during the 2004 summer vocational conference.

Fall Administrators Conference

The Missouri Council of Career and Technical Administrators (MCCTA) and Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) will hold their fall conference together. Both serve as instructional leaders at the secondary level and have the same issues and challenges on a daily basis. It seems appropriate for the groups to come together and discuss their common challenges and issues.

Division Communications Plan

Over the last several months the Division has been working on a communications plan. We need to figure out how we communicate to students, parents, educators, and business leaders who we are and what we do. We presented to plan to Commissioner King this morning (August 13, 2003) and will be presenting the plan to

Division staff this afternoon (August 13, 2003). Additionally, the plan will be presented to the State Board of Education at the September 4 meeting.

Career Clusters

We are waiting on Commissioner King's approval of our career cluster vision paper. We will then have it printed, distributed, and start implementing. Additionally, Division staff along with some Department staff met and started developing High School Plans of Study for each of the career clusters. A *Guide to Implementing Career Clusters in Missouri* is also being developed. It will include the High School Plans of Study. The Guide will be put on the web.